U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/806,767
Title: Multi-Source Programming Guide Apparatus and Method
Applicant(s): Nishikawa et al.; Filing Date: March 23, 2004
Document: Response to Final Office Action of May 19, 2009

Attorney Docket No. 81235 7114

Amendments to the Claims:

The following complete listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. The Claims are not herein further amended. No new matter has been introduced.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (previously presented)   A method of selecting content by way of a multi-source interactive programming guide apparatus, comprising the steps of:

providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content, wherein a first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content differ from a second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content with respect to a primary transmission service provider;

providing a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable for at least one user, wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content across the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content;

providing at least one selection criterion;

applying the at least one selection criterion with respect to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide a resultant selection of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content;

displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection;

supporting a programming guide navigation;

reviewing and browsing the information regarding the at least one portion of the resultant selection;

if selecting a particular item of the plurality of discrete selectable items, providing a

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selection response; and

25   if not selecting a particular item of the plurality of discrete selectable items, returning to the supporting step.

2.   (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

responding to a remote control by scrolling through the programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection.

3.   (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

detecting user selection of a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content.

4.   (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising a user database and wherein providing at least one selection criterion further comprises using information from the user database to characterize the at least one selection criterion to be provided.

5.   (previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein using information from the user database to identify the at least one selection criterion to be provided comprises:

accessing information from the user database to discern preferences of a particular user;

accessing the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of 5 discrete selectable items of audio/video content;

comparing the preferences of a particular user to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

6.   (original) The method of claim 4 further comprising:

responding to a remote control by selecting a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content.

7.   (original) The method of claim 1 wherein providing at least one selection criterion comprises:

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supplying at least one user-defined keyword; and

matching the at least one user-defined keyword with at least one of the characterizing

5   descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video

content.

8.   (previously presented) An interactive multi-source programming guide apparatus,

comprising:

a data processing unit comprising at least one element selected from a group consisting

essentially of a fixed-purpose dedicated platform, a partially-programmable platform, a cable,

5   and a satellite set-top box;

a plurality of characterizing descriptors, each of which individually correspond to a

plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content, wherein a first plurality of the

discrete selectable items of audio/video content differ from a second plurality of the discrete

selectable items of audio/video content with respect to a primary transmission service provider

10   and at least one selection criterion;

a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the

discrete selectable audio/visual programs, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable

for at least one user, wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content

across the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second

15   plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content; and

a control circuitry adapted to:

apply the at least one selection criterion with respect to the characterizing descriptors of

the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality

of discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide a resultant selection of first the

20   plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete

selectable items of audio/video content;

display programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a

portion of the resultant selection; and

a support programming guide navigation,

25   wherein the data processing unit utilizes the plurality of characterizing descriptors, the

plurality of cascading filters, the control circuitry, and the support programming guide

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navigation.

9.   (previously presented) The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the control circuitry further comprises filter means for comparing the at least one selection criterion with at least some of the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide the resultant selection.

10.   (original) The interactive programming guide of claim 8 and wherein the at least one selection criterion is based, at least in part, upon a preference of a present viewer of the interactive programming guide.

11.   (original) The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the at least one selection criterion comprises a user-defined keyword.

12.   (original) The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the at least one selection criterion is retained in a database.

13.   (previously presented) A method of providing an interactive multi-source programming guide apparatus, comprising the steps of:

providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs, wherein a first plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs differ from a second plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs with respect to a primary transmission service provider;

providing a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable for at least one user, wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content across the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content;

providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual;

applying the at least one selection criterion with respect to the characterizing descriptors

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of the first plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs to provide a resultant selection of the first plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs;

displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection; and

providing a support programming guide navigation.

14.   (original) The method of claim 13 wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises ascertaining an identity of a present viewer.

15.   (previously presented) The method of claim 14 wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises using the identity to recall at least one previously stored selection criterion.

16.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least of one of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

17.   (previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least of one of the first plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs.

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18.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

responding to a remote control by scrolling through the programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection;

detecting user selection of a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content;

providing a user database and wherein providing at least one selection criterion further comprises using information from the user database to characterize the at least one selection criterion to be provided; and

responding to a remote control by selecting a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content,

wherein using information from the user database to identify the at least one selection criterion to be provided comprises:

accessing information from the user database to discern preferences of a particular user;

accessing the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content; and

comparing the preferences of a particular user to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content,

wherein providing at least one selection criterion comprises:

supplying at least one user-defined keyword; and

matching the at least one user-defined keyword with at least one of the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content, and

wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least of one of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

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19.   (previously presented) The interactive programming guide of claim 8,

wherein the control circuitry further comprises filter means for comparing the at least one selection criterion with at least some of the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide the resultant selection,

wherein the at least one selection criterion is based, at least in part, upon a preference of a present viewer of the interactive programming guide,

wherein the at least one selection criterion comprises a user-defined keyword, and

wherein the at least one selection criterion is retained in a database.

20.   (previously presented) The method of claim 13,

wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises ascertaining an identity of a present viewer.

wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises using the identity to recall at least one previously stored selection criterion, and

wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least of one of the first plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs.